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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,190	07/08/2003	Yoshifumi Takamoto	H-1105	6338

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EXAMINER:

OSMAN, RAMY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/24/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/614,190	TAKAMOTO ET AL.
	Examiner Ramy M. Osman	Art Unit 2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some.* c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is responsive to application filed on July 8, 2003, and to preliminary amendment filed on December 13, 2005 where applicant amended claims 1,3,4,8,9,11,12,13,14 and added new claim 15. Claims 1-15 are pending examination.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 3 objected to because of the following informalities: On line 6 change "so as enable" to "so as to enable". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 1 recites the limitation "said area allocated from said first device to each of said plurality of clients" in lines 8-9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5.. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an

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international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bates et al (US Patent No 6,977,927).

7. In reference to claims 1,11 and 12, BATES respectively teaches a network storage system for supplying a storage to a plurality of clients through a network; wherein said system includes:

a first device provided with a disk device; and a second device for managing a connection to said plurality of clients; (column 11 lines 57-67)

wherein said first device allocates an area of said disk device to said second device (column 4 lines 10-20); wherein said second device allocates a portion of said area allocated from said first device to each of said plurality of clients (column 3 line 54 – column 4 line 5 and column 10 lines 5-20); and

wherein said second device is provided with means for translating a source network address to a specific network address to be transferred to said first device even when receiving a request from any one of a plurality of network addresses denoting said plurality of clients (column 11 lines 21-25 & 57-67).

8. In reference to claim 2, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claim 1, wherein said second device adds a preset name of said area allocated from said first device to a file name included in said access request received from said client and transfers said file name to said first device (column 11 lines 5-30).

9. In reference to claim 3, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claim 2, wherein said system, when said second device is started up, encodes an identifier specific to said second device, then transfers said encoded identifier to said first device while said first device

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decodes said device identifier received from said second device and compares said device identifier received from said second device with device identifiers described in a table stored in said first device so as enable devices described by the device identifiers to be connected to their objects (column 11 lines 5-30).

10. In reference to claim 4, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claim 3, wherein said first device requests said second device for transferring of its device identifier periodically and inhibits said second device to access said allocated area when receiving no response from said second device or when said device identifier is not found in said table stored in the first device and used to describe devices enabled to access said allocated disk area (column 11 lines 1-30).

11. In reference to claim 5, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claim 2, wherein said first device, when said second device is started up, transfers the name of said area allocated to said second device (column 10 lines 20-40).

12. In reference to claim 6, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claim 3, wherein said first device notifies said second device of a usable capacity when said second device is started up and said second device makes a check whether or not said capacity is exceeded when receiving a write request from a client and rejects said write request if said capacity is exceeded (column 11 lines 1-30).

13. In reference to claim 7, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claim 2, wherein said second device encodes a write or read request from a client, then transfers said encoded request to said first device (column 11 lines 5-30).

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14. In reference to claim 8, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claim 2, wherein said second device, when a client's file is to be transferred to another said second device, determines whether or not said file is transferred between different networks and converts a user identifier described in the management information of said file if YES is a check result (column 12 lines 36-67).

15. In reference to claim 9, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claim 8, wherein said second device, when having transferred said file, deletes the management information related to said client who has transferred said file therefrom and said another second device adds the management information related to said client thereto (column 11 line 50 – column 12 line 15).

16. In reference to claims 10,14, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claims 2 and 12, wherein said second device is built in said first device (column 7 lines 3-57).

17. In reference to claim 13, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claim 12, wherein said network file device has a primary cache for storing copy information, which is at least partly disk device information; and wherein said client management device has a secondary cache for storing part of said copy information stored in said primary cache, which corresponds to said predetermined area allocated to said client management device (column 10 lines 20-40).

18. In reference to claim 15, BATES teaches the network storage system according to claim 12, wherein said network file device and said network storage system are separated from each other and connected to each other through a network (column 7 lines 3-57).

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Conclusion

19. Applicant is advised that the above specified citations of the relied upon prior art are only representative of the teachings of the prior art, and that any other supportive sections within the entirety of the reference (including any figures, incorporation by references, and claims) is implied as being applied to teach the scope of the claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramy M. Osman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4008. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RMO
January 17, 2007


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